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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994 and outlines the measures taken to implement the resolution.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 49/5

A. Joint activities

2. The joint United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) continued to be the main vehicle of cooperation between the two Organizations. The mandate of the United Nations component of MICIVIH was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/20 B on 20 April 1993 and was subsequently extended by resolutions 48/275 of 8 July 1994, 49/27 B of 12 July 1995 and 50/86 B of 19 April 1996.

3. The coordination of the operations of MICIVIH continued to be carried out by the Joint Working Group on MICIVIH, comprising representatives from the United Nations Secretariat, including the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations, Legal Affairs, and Administration and Management, as well as representatives of the General Secretariat of OAS.

4. The Executive Director of MICIVIH reports to the Secretary-General of the United Nations through his Special Representative and directly to the Secretary-General of OAS. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti is responsible for coordinating the work of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), which replaced the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) on 1 July 1996 pursuant to Security Council resolution 1063 (1996) of 28 June 1996, and MICIVIH. MICIVIH's knowledge of local issues, field experience and linguistic skills have been of considerable utility to both UNMIH and UNSMIH. Mechanisms have been put in place at all levels of the missions to facilitate coordination and the exchange of information. MICIVIH works closely, in particular, with the civilian police component of UNSMIH on matters pertaining to the detention and treatment of prisoners, as well as other human rights issues, including human rights training of the Haitian National Police. UNSMIH provides administrative and logistic support to MICIVIH, while the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs support both missions from New York.

5. Within the framework of their cooperation in Haiti, both Organizations worked closely together to support the holding of legislative and municipal (June-October 1995), and presidential (December 1995) elections there. In accordance with an understanding between them, the United Nations, through UNMIH, provided technical assistance to help the Provisional Electoral Council organize the elections, while OAS, through its Electoral Observer Mission, undertook to monitor the electoral process, including the election campaigns and the voting. MICIVIH closely monitored the human rights aspects of the campaigns and in that context offered mediation in cases of disputes between candidates or

their supporters. UNMIH and MICIVIH also provided logistic support for the electoral observation activities.

6. In addition, in March 1996, the Resident Auditor of the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations, at the request of the Inspector-General of OAS, conducted a review of MICIVIH, to verify certain costs and the share attributed to OAS.

B. Consultations and exchange of information

7. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAS met on several occasions. Secretary-General César Gaviria assumed office in October 1994, and visited the United Nations shortly thereafter. At the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and OAS held at United Nations Headquarters on 17 and 18 April 1995 both Secretaries-General made opening statements. They also signed an agreement of cooperation between the two Secretariats (annex I). The report of the meeting, containing its conclusions and recommendations, was issued as document UN/OAS/GM3/INF.5.

8. In October 1995, the Secretary-General of OAS attended the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and made a statement (see A/50/PV.40).

9. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In January 1996, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs delegated the responsibility for cooperation with OAS to an Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Political Affairs. Following a review of methods of cooperation with regional organizations, including OAS, a more flexible mechanism of cooperation and coordination was introduced. This mechanism, which was discussed with OAS, will facilitate more pragmatic and cost-effective cooperation between the two Organizations. The mechanism provides for focal points within the departments, offices, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, allowing for direct contacts between the OAS General Secretariat and substantive offices in the United Nations system in areas under their respective responsibility.

10. On 14 February 1996, the Secretary-General of OAS participated in the meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements with which the United Nations has had cooperation in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping, which had been convened by the Secretary-General to discuss modalities and principles for such cooperation and new, practical and more effective ways of working together.

11. In a letter dated 15 March 1995 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of OAS proposed that general procedures and a consultative mechanism regarding election monitoring in the Americas be discussed. He also noted that OAS was interested in strengthening its conflict analysis and management capabilities and proposed a mechanism for sharing its experiences in that area. Suggesting further discussions on those matters between senior officials of the two Organizations, the Secretary-General of the

United Nations, in his reply of 6 May 1996, noted with satisfaction the consensus reached at the February meeting with regional organizations on the need for agreed, although not necessarily formal, mechanisms for consultations and the importance of a well-defined and agreed division of labour, mutual diplomatic support and the avoidance of a multiplicity of negotiators. In that context he drew attention to the several areas of practical collaboration that existed between the two Organizations.

12. In accordance with the terms of the agreement of cooperation signed by the two Secretaries-General on 17 April 1995 (see annex), representatives of both Organizations and their associated institutions continue to attend each other's meetings, exchange information and cooperate on matters of mutual interest.

13. The United Nations was represented in an observer capacity at the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, held in Haiti and Panama, in June 1995 and 1996, respectively.

14. The United Nations and OAS, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the University of the West Indies are currently discussing co-sponsoring a workshop on governance and development in the Caribbean proposed for early 1997.

C. Information received from the United Nations system

15. In response to a request by the Department of Political Affairs, the heads of agencies, programmes, departments and offices of the United Nations system supplied the information summarized below.

1. United Nations Secretariat

Office of Internal Oversight Services

16. In March 1996, a delegation of senior officials from OAS, including the Organization's Inspector-General, visited the United Nations and met with senior officials of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, among others.

17. The Inspector-General was thoroughly briefed about the respective functions of the Office and was provided with copies of inspection and evaluation reports issued over the last two years. The Inspector-General was also provided with the Administrative Instructions on Reporting of Inappropriate Use of United Nations Resources and Proposals for Improvement of Programme Delivery.

18. The importance of recruiting trained investigative staff for developing a sound investigative capacity was emphasized. The Office of Internal Oversight Services agreed to provide the Inspector-General with the procedure manual and terms of reference for conducting investigations when those documents were completed. The protocols of conducting investigations and the issues of access to records and confidentiality were also discussed. It was agreed that further consultation on specific matters would be useful to OAS.

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

19. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has pursued close cooperation with OAS in its activities in the Americas, notably in the area of disaster mitigation and response, as seen in the following examples.

20. The Department's United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team was enlarged to include a regional group covering the Americas. OAS participated in a regional meeting held by the Department in Ecuador in June 1995. The Department's International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction office also helped organize, together with OAS, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Government of Mexico, an international conference on disaster mitigation in hospitals, held in March 1996. The Disaster Mitigation Branch of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in cooperation with UNDP in Barbados, is planning a regional workshop on disaster preparedness and mitigation and is formulating a disaster mitigation project for Jamaica. Both projects will be prepared and implemented in close cooperation with OAS.

21. On the issue of landmines, the Department noted that 110 million landmines were currently scattered in 68 countries around the world and that OAS could be a forum to further progress towards the goal of a total ban on landmines in the Americas. Numerous countries in the region, including Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru, have first-hand experience with the problem caused by these cheap and simple weapons. The call upon OAS member States to declare and implement a moratorium contained in the resolution adopted by the OAS General Assembly on 7 June 1996 represents a significant and encouraging step towards a worldwide ban.

Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

22. The Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development does not have any cooperation activities with OAS as yet. However, it anticipates joint activities with OAS in monitoring the implementation of the declarations and programmes of action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women at the regional level.

23. Cooperation is also envisaged in the areas of eradication of poverty, elimination of violence against women and joint referencing of relevant information sources on the Department's Web page at the following address: http://www.un.org/dpcsd. In addition, the Department expects to collaborate with OAS in the convening of the presidential summit on sustainable development in the Americas.

Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

24. The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis has not as yet developed any joint programmes with OAS. However, some of the data and research carried out by the Department in the areas of macroeconomics, statistics and population could be of substantive use to the work of the members and the General Secretariat of OAS.

25. Among the most relevant contributions are the annual World Population Monitoring Report that analyses specific themes identified in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for all countries in the world, and Abortion Policies, a compilation of measures adopted by Governments around the world. Another useful tool in the social sector for Latin American Governments is The World's Women 1995: Trends and Statistics, which represents information on women's status, families, education and childbearing. In the macroeconomic sector, the Department every year releases the outcome of its analysis, research and discussion on economic and social policies around the world in the World Economic and Social Survey, a document that could also be considered useful to the member States of OAS. Another major contribution of the Department, made possible with the collaboration of the European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is the new system of national accounts (1993). The Department has developed a coordinating support system to the SNA 1993 to help countries strengthen their capabilities. It includes training seminars, workshops and technical cooperation activities, several of them having taken place in member countries of OAS.

Department of Public Information

26. The meeting of the Secretary-General with the heads of regional organizations, held at New York on 15 February 1996, was highlighted by the Department's daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations worldwide and received emphasis in its press release service (English and French).

27. The third general meeting on 17 April 1995 between the Secretariats of OAS and the United Nations was covered by the Department of Public Information. The coverage included the photographs of the signing of the Cooperative Agreement between the United Nations and OAS, video coverage of the opening session and of the press briefing held on that occasion. The Department produced 73 special radio programmes on the international presence in Haiti between January 1995 and February 1996, including the activities of MICIVIH and the elections, in whose organization and observation the United Nations and OAS worked closely together. The programmes focused on the observation by MICIVIH of the election campaigns and by the OAS Electoral Observer Mission of the election and voting processes.

Department of Administration and Management

28. During the period under review, senior officials of OAS visited the United Nations and held discussions with officials of the Department of Administration and Management on administrative, personnel and budgetary issues. In that context the Deputy Chief of Staff and the Director of Human Resources of OAS participated in the work of the International Civil Service Commission, including the eighty-third session of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions at the United Nations on 20 and 21 July 1995.

2. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

29. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights are conducting technical cooperation programmes in the following member States of OAS: Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico and Paraguay. Under discussion are projected technical cooperation needs assessment missions to Chile, Ecuador/Peru and Guatemala. In addition, the Centre will provide support for a seminar on human rights education to be held in Costa Rica during 1996 and has advised the Governments of Brazil and Panama on the establishment of their national human rights plan and of an ombudsman, respectively. At the subregional level, the Centre is working with the Andean Commission of Jurists on judicial reform, the human rights training of judges and police, and the appointment of ombudsmen. Within Central America and Panama the Centre is cooperating in programmes of prison reform and police training. Finally, in response to a request by the Government of Colombia, which was endorsed in a statement by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations, the Centre is in advanced stages of the preparation of proposals for the establishment in Bogota of a High Commissioner's office with the mandate to provide human rights technical cooperation and protection.

3. United Nations University

30. The United Nations University (UNU) has signed an agreement of cooperation with OAS with special focus on human resource development. The University has been working with scholars and institutions in States members of OAS in the area of biotechnology, through postgraduate training, scientific exchanges and fellowships and in the joint preparation and distribution of publications. Under the UNU training and fellowship programme, some 427 young scholars from the OAS region have been trained in various priority areas, including development, environment, peace and governance and science and technology.

4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. The need to coordinate the activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) with the economic and social tasks of OAS has been recognized and an ECLAC liaison office has been set up at OAS headquarters. As OAS has expanded its tasks into areas such as drug abuse control or felt the need for closer cooperation, as in the field of statistics, this has led to the adoption of specific measures to increase coordination.

32. The emergence of a new hemispheric agenda centred on economic and social issues from the Summit of the Americas has led to the reactivation of mechanisms for cooperation between ECLAC, OAS and IDB. ECLAC has therefore maintained and strengthened its working relations and contacts with OAS during the period under review. OAS officials participated in forums organized by ECLAC and vice versa, submitting reports and focusing action on topics of interest to both institutions. In particular, this collaboration has taken the form of activities in the areas of social policies and statistics, free trade, the environment and small and medium-sized enterprises.

33. In the area of social policies, the two organizations signed a new agreement extending for two more years the Joint Programme on Social Policies for Latin America (PROPOSAL), set up in 1989 to support the social development efforts of the Governments of the region. The programme's joint working group decided to focus work on the following areas: applied research, training, technical assistance, inter-agency coordination and dissemination of information.

34. In the area of family and childhood, ECLAC made a presentation at the third Latin American symposium on programmes for children in the context of poverty, held at San José from 26 to 30 September 1995. The symposium was organized by OAS and the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Joint Institute for Social Aid. ECLAC and OAS have also discussed the possibility of future joint activities in the areas of child development, mental health and psychosocial development of the family and children.

35. ECLAC has also had contacts with the Department of Regional Development and Environment of OAS and there has been cooperation in the area of watershed management, through the exchange of information, reciprocal support for projects and participation in meetings. At present, the joint action in this area is mainly carried out through the "Inter-American Water Dialogue", an effort to increase cooperation and technical exchanges among water specialists in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America.

36. The Joint ECLAC/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial and Technological Development Unit participated in a regional workshop on methodologies and tools for the improvement of competitiveness and environmental performance of small and medium-sized industries in the Caribbean States, organized by OAS, the International Development Research Centre of Canada and the Institute for Management Development, and held in Port-of-Spain from 27 February to 1 March 1996. At the workshop, ECLAC made a presentation on modelling strategy for the improvement of industrial competitiveness in small and medium-sized industries.

37. The OAS General Secretariat and ECLAC signed an Agreement on Technical Cooperation in Statistical Matters, on 7 October 1993, which calls for a joint meeting of high-level statistical experts at ECLAC headquarters every two years. The first such meeting was held from 11 to 14 October 1994. The sixteenth meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference was held at OAS headquarters on 27 and 28 April 1995. At the seventeenth meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee, held at OAS headquarters on 6 and 7 November 1995, ECLAC presented a document entitled "Report on activities related to the subprogrammes presented by ECLAC at the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters", covering the period from 1 May to 15 October 1995. The second joint meeting of high-level statistical experts is scheduled to take place in late October 1996, and consultations with the experts are already under way.

5. World Food Programme

38. No official formal cooperation agreement exists between the World Food Programme (WFP) and OAS, but at the country level there is informal interchange, including seminars and workshops.

39. OAS representatives attend WFP food aid coordination meetings, which are chaired by WFP. The Interamerican Institute for Agriculture (IICA) of OAS is the basis for WFP collaboration. In Ecuador IICA documents were useful to WFP in formulating its country strategy outline. In Guyana, WFP has been providing salary supplement food rations to workers in an IICA-promoted project to support rehabilitation and expansion of plant nurseries for seedlings for fruit and other trees. The objective is greater production of seedlings. In Haiti in 1995, the OAS representative participated in monthly WFP-chaired food aid coordination meetings. Tools for agricultural production in watersheds in a WFP project have been provided by IICA. In Haiti also, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), IICA and WFP collaborate closely in providing food aid and medical services to vulnerable groups.

40. In Jamaica, WFP/United Nations Volunteers (UNV) assisted OAS in preparing and implementing an OAS-initiated activity in felt making. The original activity has now been expanded as an integrated community-based economic development opportunity ranging from sheep rearing to wool processing and several other wool crafts, including felt making. Production is targeted to take full advantage of Jamaica ecotourism in Saint Elizabeth. During 1996, the initial stages of the project, including mobilization of resource agencies and training of sheep farmers and the wool processors, will be completed. Ongoing meetings in Jamaica have spelled out collaboration in community-based training and economic development projects between WFP and OAS.

6. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

41. During 1995-1996, the United Nations and OAS strengthened regional cooperation through the joint work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of OAS. The United Nations Drug Control Programme and CICAD meet biannually to consult on regional drug control strategies and trends, programming priorities, and to set forth the highest practicable level of coordination in project planning, information gathering and analysis.

42. The Drug Control Programme and CICAD are associated in regional and subregiona programmes, projects and workshops aimed at harmonization of national drug control, legislation, strengthening of essential chemicals and precursor control departments, drug abuse prevention and money-laundering. Overall priority in 1996 was assigned to the strengthening of the technical, legal and managerial capabilities/capacities of national drug councils in the region as well as their ability to plan and develop drug control projects among themselves. In that connection, the Programme and CICAD collaborated on the organization of the former's Regional Meeting on Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, held in Barbados from 15 to 17 May 1996, which included a separate working group chaired by CICAD on strengthening national

drug councils. That meeting resulted in a plan of action aimed at achieving more effective cooperation between the countries of the Caribbean, and countries outside the region as well as international and regional organizations in areas such as law enforcement, demand reduction, legislation and maritime matters. The Programme will be discussing with CICAD and others how best to collaborate in implementing the plan.

43. The Programme and CICAD routinely exchange information on each other's operational activities in the field. On the basis of a joint aide-mémoire of 3 August 1995, they also conduct joint appraisals of regional and subregional programme and project ideas prior to implementation, thus ensuring complementarily, optimal division of labour and avoiding duplication. Such joint work is proving particularly significant in the context of demand reduction and judicial cooperation projects emanating from the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation concluded between Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The latter and CICAD are currently consulting on plans to advance similar subregional cooperation agreements and coordination mechanisms between Mexico and Central America and in the Caribbean.

44. A seminar for drug control administrators in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized by CICAD, in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and held in Santiago from 4 to 8 December 1995. It was attended by 19 participants from 18 countries.

7. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

45. The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in keeping with its mandate to stimulate and assist through research, training and information activities, in the advancement of women and their integration in the development process, has paid particular attention to the development of activities in the American continent. The Institute's current work programme in the American continent provides many areas of possible collaboration with OAS.

46. In February 1996, at its sixteenth session, the INSTRAW Board of Trustees approved the following programmes for the biennium 1996-1997: (a) economic and political empowerment of women; (b) women, environment and sustainable development; (c) women, communications and media; and (d) statistics and indicators on gender issues.

47. Under the programme on economic and political empowerment of women and as a follow-up to research conducted in the past, INSTRAW will be involved in research on women's access to credit and policy guidelines for its improvement; gender impact analysis of credit; gender training materials: INSTRAW gender training portfolio; gender concepts in development planning - a basic approach; and guidelines for enhancing women's participation in decision-making and leadership.

48. An expert group meeting on the role of women in decision-making and conflict resolution will be convened from 7 to 11 October 1996 at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo. The meeting is being organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, in cooperation with INSTRAW.

49. This programme element envisaged two publications on women and credit: a global overview on the situation of women's access to credit and a case study of gender impact analysis of credit projects of the Asociación Dominicana para el Desarrollo de Microempresas in the Dominican Republic. In collaboration with OAS and provided funds become available, INSTRAW could conduct similar research in other countries in the region where successful credit schemes for women have been established.

50. The third output consists of a booklet entitled Gender concepts in development planning: basic approach, which explains the evolution of the concept and how it has been addressed by development strategies.

51. INSTRAW has training packages available on women, water supply, sanitation and waste management; women and new and renewable sources of energy; and on women, environmental management and sustainable development. National and regional training seminars on enhancing women's roles in environmentally sound and sustainable development will also be conducted.

52. These seminars will be aimed at senior officials, development planners and provincial and local authorities in charge of water supply and sanitation projects, representatives of non-governmental organizations and trainers. The seminars will contribute to a new approach in the organization and management of sustainable water supply and sanitation programmes through the integration of women's needs as well as their participation in planning, technical operations, maintenance, assessment and implementation of water supply and sanitation projects.

53. INSTRAW concluded the project on women, communications and media, which was initiated in 1991 in collaboration with the INSTRAW focal point in Italy, the Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS), with funds provided by the Government of Italy. The project was implemented in Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic by three selected national women's organizations, the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer, Cine Mujer and the Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina. INSTRAW will implement the statistics and indicators on gender issues programmes during the biennium 1996-1997.

8. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

54. OAS and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed a cooperation agreement in 1950, under which there is reciprocal representation in meetings concerning matters of common interest, in particular OAS General Assemblies, meetings of the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC) and meetings of the General Conference

and Executive Board of UNESCO. The Secretary-General of OAS and the Director-General of UNESCO met in Washington, D.C., in March 1996 and decided to create a joint working group to define further areas of cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

55. A meeting sponsored by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of OAS and UNESCO took place at San Salvador on 23 and 24 January 1996 on the initiative of the Salvadorian Cooperation Committee of CIM. Its main objective was to promote the contribution of Salvadorian women to the consolidation of peace and democracy through dialogue and national consensus-building within the framework of a culture of peace.

56. An OAS/UNESCO Inter-American Symposium on Security for Peace was held at the Inter-American Defence College, Washington, D.C., on 3 and 4 April 1995. The symposium, which was attended by more than 200 diplomats and military experts, focused on peacekeeping, peace-building and the new threats challenging nations: terrorism, drug trafficking, illiteracy, joblessness and social exclusion. UNESCO and OAS participate in an informal group on governance and democracy, together with UNDP, IDB and the World Bank.

57. In the field of science, UNESCO, through its Regional Office for Science and Technology at Montevideo, lends its support to the OAS Common Market for Scientific and Technological Knowledge (MERCOYT) programme, which is complementary to the UNESCO Common Market of Knowledge (MECCO) programme. UNESCO and OAS also provide a joint support to the Regional Network on Science and Technology Indicators (RICYT) and have cooperated during the last biennium in different areas such as science-industry relations and water resource management.

58. Cooperation has also been established with the OAS General Secretariat in the preparation of the following UNESCO publications: Human Rights: Status of Major International Instruments, published annually, which contains a separate section on OAS instruments, Access to Human Rights Documentation and Human Rights: Questions and Answers and the Manual on Human Rights, which are designed for universities.

9. International Civil Aviation Organization

59. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperates with OAS through exchange of documentation and invitations to relevant meetings. OAS is regularly invited to the sessions of the Assembly of ICAO and ICAO attends meetings convened by the International Telecommunications Conference of OAS that are of interest to ICAO work in the field of aeronautical telecommunications. The Council of ICAO at its one hundred forty-fifth session reaffirmed its readiness to cooperate more fully with regional organizations, including OAS.

10. International Monetary Fund

60. Since 1994 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has continued to participate in special conferences and meetings on specific topics or relating to selected country issues, including the conference on alternative development, meetings of the Inter-American Drug Control Commission and several meetings to discuss the situation in Haiti. In addition, on 11 October 1995, the Managing Director of IMF delivered a speech at OAS Headquarters at a luncheon for President Zedillo of Mexico.

11. International Maritime Organization

61. There was no direct OAS/IMO cooperation during 1995 and none is envisaged at present. However, within the framework of the general agreement of cooperation between the two organizations, IMO receives documents and reports, and provides feedback and substantive comments, in respect of the work of the OAS Permanent Technical Committee on Ports. This applies in particular to questions of port development and facilitation of international maritime traffic.

62. IMO would be pleased to explore the possibility of further cooperation with OAS in the maritime/port sector and looks forward to hearing from the OAS General Secretariat in this regard. Such cooperation will be facilitated by the designation of focal points in both organizations.

12. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

63. Since the official launching of the hemispheric initiative for building the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) pursuant to the summit of Miami and the Denver Declaration, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat has provided technical assistance to OAS in the following areas of trade in goods and services: databases for trade in goods and services; trade in services, competition policies, trade and environment and investment regimes.

64. UNCTAD's principal cooperation with OAS has dealt mainly with providing technical advice and direct support to build up databases on trade in goods and services in the Americas. The most relevant examples are the trade information projects (TRAINS) and the project on measures affecting services trade (MAST). An updated version of the TRAINS database on export and import regimes in the Americas is being prepared jointly by IDB and UNCTAD. Similarly, UNCTAD is providing the software, training, direct expertise, technical support and quality control to make up an inventory of laws and regulations governing services transactions in the region. As a main support to the data processing, the UNCTAD software on MAST is being used as a pilot experiment in selected countries.

65. In addition to the MAST database to be used in some trade in services-related areas, UNCTAD will provide technical assistance to negotiators of FTAA. It will also work jointly with OAS in the preparation of background studies and

on conceptual issues relating to the definition of a framework for the liberalization of trade in services. The background studies include such subjects as the establishment of an inventory and the analysis of the treatment of services in the integration and free trade agreements among the countries of the region.

66. During the visit of the Director of the Trade Unit of OAS to Geneva, it was agreed that UNCTAD and OAS would begin their cooperation with the execution of the following three joint projects to be financed by OAS: a regional seminar on competition policies to be held at Lima; joint research on competition and trade policy; and a joint inventory of competition laws in the Americas.

67. Regarding trade and the environment, UNCTAD will provide OAS with all UNCTAD case studies on the environment in the countries of the Americas and will also provide technical support in the negotiating process, as and when required.

ANNEX

Cooperation Agreement between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States:

TAKING NOTE that the purposes of the United Nations are, inter alia, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends, and bearing in mind that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, and whose activities are consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

TAKING NOTE that the essential purposes proclaimed by the Organization of American States are, inter alia, to seek the solution of political, juridical and economic problems that may arise among them; and to promote by cooperative action, their economic, social and cultural development,

BEARING IN MIND the appropriate provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

TAKING NOTE of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, in particular resolutions 42/11, 43/4, 45/10, 47/11 and 49/5 and those of the Organization of American States General Assembly, in particular resolutions AG/RES 880 (XVII-0/87), AG/RES 941 (XVIII-0/88), AG/RES 1126 (XXI-0/93) and AG/RES 1289 (XXIV-0/94), calling for intensified cooperation between the two Organizations,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article I

COOPERATION AND CONSULTATIONS

1. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall act in close collaboration and hold consultations regularly on all matters of common interest.

2. To this end, the two parties shall consider the appropriate framework for such consultation as and when necessary.

Article II

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure and such decisions as may be taken by the competent bodies concerning the attendance of meetings by observers, the Secretariat of the United Nations shall invite the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States to send representatives to United Nations meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of special interest to the Organization of American States are discussed.

2. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure and such decisions as may be taken by the competent bodies concerning the attendance of meetings by observers, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall invite the United Nations to send representatives to the Organization of American States meetings and conferences where observers are allowed, whenever matters of special interest to the United Nations are discussed.

Article III

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

1. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States agree to exchange information and documentation in the public domain to the fullest extent possible on matters of common interest.

2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects or programmes may also be exchanged between the parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the two Secretariats.

Article IV

STATISTICAL AND LEGAL INFORMATION

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall, subject to their respective rules and regulations, endeavour to make every effort possible to ensure optimum utilization of statistical and legal information, and efficient use of their resources to compile, analyse, publish and disseminate such information.

Article V

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States shall take appropriate measures to ensure

effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of the two Organizations.

Article VI

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall consult each other regularly on matters relating to this Agreement.

Article VII

SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the purpose of cooperation and coordination as may be found desirable.

Article VIII

ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS AND DURATION

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

2. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the parties. The proposed amendment should be made in writing to the other party and shall enter into force after a period of three months following the expression of such consent.

3. Either of the parties may terminate this Agreement by giving six month's written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States have signed the present Agreement in duplicate in English and Spanish, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed this 17th day of April 1995 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For the Secretariat of the United Nations:

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
Secretary-General

For the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States:

(Signed) César GAVIRIA TRUJILLO
Secretary-General